

“Keeping In Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for
Fish & Game Retirees/Families and
Interested Former Employees

October, 2012, Vol. 8, No. 4

Dates to Remember

**Retiree Luncheon
Schedule
Golden Corral
on Emerald in Boise
11:30 a.m.**

**2012
November 8**

**2013
January 10
March 14
May 9
July 11
September 12
November 14**

Mark Your Calendars!

Editor's Note

Just wanted to thank *Jo Toomey* and to welcome her back as my proofreader. She has computer/e-mail access again, so she is able to check my “stuff” for the major “goofs” I make. Thanks, Jo!!

“To Preserve, Protect, Perpetuate and Manage”

Op-Ed: Citizen Involvement Key to Future of Wildlife

By Randy Budge, Chairman, Idaho Fish and Game Commission

As Idahoans, it is easy to take for granted our abundant and diverse wildlife, vast open spaces, and access to both public and private lands.

But as speakers at last week's Idaho Wildlife Summit reminded us, the wildlife we enjoy today are here because of the remarkable vision, passion and foresight of past leaders who were successful in gaining the wide-spread public support necessary to preserve wildlife and open spaces from ongoing human destruction.

In the late 1800s most wildlife had been decimated. There were no laws or governmental agencies to protect wildlife and no public support for doing so. Then came President Theodore Roosevelt and other leaders who championed a new ethic of resource conservation and created broad-based support for protecting wildlife and establishing public lands.

During TR's presidency over 230 million acres of public lands – nearly 10 percent of the U.S. land mass – were set aside for the public as national parks, forests and wildlife preserves. Similar broad public support developed in Idaho and led to the passage of state laws, establishing that all wildlife is owned by the state, is held in public trust for the citizens, and is to be protected, preserved, and perpetuated and managed to provide hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities.

In 1938, Idahoans showed overwhelming support for wildlife management, passing our state's first successful ballot initiative, establishing a citizen's fish and game commission to manage wildlife. With Idaho's wildlife again under threat from population growth, development, and shrinking habitat, it is now our generation's turn to lead.

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All donations should be
made payable to
IDF&G Retirees and
sent to the above address.

Manage, cont. from Page 1

The Summit's keynote speaker, Shane Mahoney (a wildlife biologist, conservationist, and hunter, from Newfoundland), exhorted people to focus on their shared passion for wildlife rather than their differences – to get others involved, and to work together for the benefit of wildlife. Mahoney says strong differences of opinion are a benefit, stating: "I'd much sooner have a world filled with people who are so vitally concerned with wildlife that they fight all the time about it than a world in which nobody gives a damn."

The biggest threats to our wildlife are apathy and divisiveness. Fortunately neither apathy nor acrimony had a seat at the Summit. Participants left closed minds and ears behind. They aired their differences with passion yet respect while demonstrating a common support for protecting and preserving Idaho wildlife for future generations. Most left the Summit with a renewed enthusiasm and commitment to wildlife conservation.

We must recognize that Idaho has, and will continue to change. While our population continues to grow, proportionately fewer are hunting and fishing. This spells financial trouble down the road for the Department of Fish and Game, which is supported primarily by sportsmen's dollars

and receives no general state budget funding. If our wildlife is to continue to prosper for future generations, we must find ways to involve more people and to build support for wildlife conservation.

The Wildlife Summit was a tremendous opportunity for those who participated to learn, listen, be heard, and share thoughts. I am happy to report that the 500 people who participated in person throughout the state, and 3,000 others watched and participated in the Summit online. All showed a common concern and passion for the conservation of Idaho's wildlife, all without disruption. Idaho hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers participated with respect for opposing views and open minds, just like Governor Butch Otter urged them to in the Summit's opening message.

Idaho Fish and Game will be adding videos of the Summit speeches, panel discussions, polling questions etc. to the Idaho Fish and Game website www.fishandgame.idaho.gov in the coming days.

The purpose of the Wildlife Summit was not to solve specific problems, change the American model of wildlife management, or embark upon new policies. Instead, the purpose of the Summit was to listen with an open mind and to have a big picture

Cont. On Page 3, Manage

Manage, cont. from Page 2

discussion about the future of wildlife conservation in Idaho. It is worth noting that nearly all of the Summit's costs are being paid for by Summit sponsors and by donations from participants.

A common theme heard was that as Idaho citizens we can accomplish a great deal more by working together than by focusing upon our differences. We live in, and love Idaho because of its heritage of vast open spaces, abundant wildlife and public access. We are forever in debt to our predecessors for these things, while recognizing we all have a continued obligation to protect and preserve Idaho's wildlife heritage for our children and grandchildren. In my view, the Wildlife Summit was a watershed event to renew enthusiasm to begin to face the challenges ahead. We have every reason to succeed.

Chairman Randy Budge represents Southeast Region on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. He is a life-long hunter and angler. This letter is endorsed by all six of Budge's Fish and Game Commission colleagues.

* * * * *

(Here is the article I promised to print regarding how the Poachers Club started. It is excerpted from the Poachers Club Members Biographical Information book; thanks to Steve Huffaker for obtaining a copy for me.)

There are several versions about how those early-day conservationists selected the name of their club. The one that seems most natural goes as follows:

In the summer of 1938 the Initiative petition drive to remove Idaho "fish and game" responsibility from the Governor-appointed State Game Warden and place it in an independent agency headed by a Commission and staffed with civil service employees was going at full throttle. The State Fish and Game Warden, W. R. McIntyre, gave a talk while on a trip to North Idaho. He was reported to have stated to one or two of his political cronies that "There's a bunch of poaching sons-of-bitches down there in Boise that are trying to do away with my job!"

The word soon got back to Boise. At one of their informal luncheons, the six founders were feeling very mellow and Judge Koelsch was reported to have urged that they adopt the name

How The Poachers Club Got Its Name

By Edna MacInness Martin

"Poachers" and to always greet one another affectionately as "Son-of-Bitches!" The ideas were approved and the greeting is the custom to this day.

At the 1999 Poacher Camp, Byron Johnson (member #118) brought with him a satchel of Poacher memorabilia from which he produced a poem written by Edna Martin, wife of Homer Martin, on how the club got its name.

We have all heard the story, but this is a take on the story that probably has more truth than what we have been told before.

On December 20, 1975, Edna wrote, "I feel it is quite fitting and proper that I, as the only Charter Member's wife able to tell this story, do it now. ***This is the way it happened.***" Emphasis hers! May you always have "Happy Days and Sunny Skies." (signed Edna)

How Your Club Got Its Name

Your Poachers Club began, I know
In a very casual way,
It was in the nineteen twenties
Over lunch at Kelly's Club Cafe.

Cont. on Page 4, Poachers

Poachers, Cont. from Page 3

The name is quite revolting
It's hard to understand —
Until you know the story
So here it is first hand.

The Game Department in those days
Was really a political plum
And the training of the Director
Was absolutely none.

Your Founders knew that this
was wrong
So set the wheels a-turning.
To take the Department out of
politics
And put in a man of learning.

One who understood the needs
To save our fish and game,
And make our State a paradise
For every one who came.

They planned and worked
With all their might,
And the contacts they made
Must have been just right.

For Sportsmen worked in every
County — all over our great State,
And they got the names they needed
To file on the right date.

My Homer wrote the Bill
Passed to save our fish and game,
And that is how The Poachers Club
Got its unusual name.

By now it was nineteen
Hundred and thirty-eight
The former Director was fuming
And full of hate.

As he passed your Founders
Having lunch,
He angrily said, "You are
A dirty bunch of poachers."

Since they were men of
Great stature and poise,
They simply all
Ignored the noise.

They were fun-loving men
And in a happy friendly way,
As Judge Koelsch was
Heard to say,

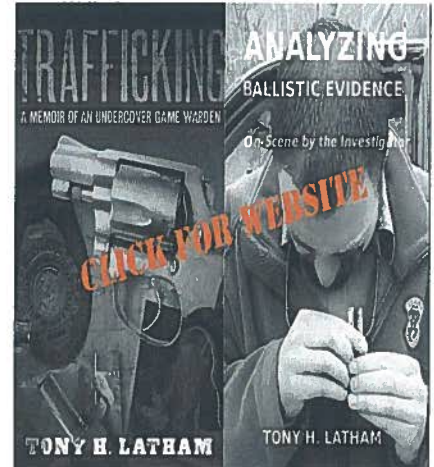
"That would be a good name
For our group to use."
They all agreed, as they were
Working to stop abuse.

Of our Fish, Game
Land and Streams,
And to keep it all safe
Were their happiest dreams.

* * * * *

Welcome New Retirees!

Jerry Hugo, Sr. Conservation Officer, retired August 31 after serving 26 years with the department. Staff Biologist **Tom McArthur** retired September 29 after 29 years with the department. And **Renai Brogdon**, Graphic Design Specialist with the Bureau of Communication, is retiring as of October 15 after 12 years of service. Welcome folks, and we hope you will stay in touch.



Trafficking, A Memoir of An Undercover Game Warden and Analyzing Ballistic Evidence

By Tony Latham

Tony's two books are something you all should read. If you want to learn more, join Tony H. Latham on Facebook and get a preview.

You can buy the books at Barnes and Noble, on Amazon.com and they are available for your Kindle or Nook. If you wish to contact Tony, his e-mail address is: tony.latham@gmail.com.

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Thank You, Thank You!!!

You folks have been especially generous with your donations so we can keep the newsletter going. Our deepest gratitude to you all. The latest contributions by **Nancy and Monte Richards, Marie Clapsaddle, Chuck Jensen and Tony Latham** are greatly appreciated. **Jack Fisher**, our treasurer, reported that our balance is almost \$800. This amount is used only to purchase supplies (envelopes, stamps, etc.) and for printing the newsletter every quarter for the folks without computer access.

In Memoriam**Jerry Melvin Conley**

1941 - 2012

A memorial service for former Director Jerry Conley was held October 12 at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise. Jerry passed away one day after his 71st birthday at his home surrounded by his loving family. He served as IDFG director from May 12, 1980 until November 30, 1996.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Janet; son Mark and wife Ana; daughter Wendy and husband Erik McFarland; four grandchildren, Ben, Sam, James and Elena; brother Rev. David Conley and wife Lisa of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, niece and nephew Sarah and Adam; in-laws Bill and Susan Daley of Denver, Colorado and niece and nephew Alison and Ryan.

Jerry requested donations in his memory be made to the MK Nature Center at 600 S. Walnut, Boise, ID 83712; he spent a lot of time at the Center with his grandchildren.

(Sorry that we could not include the entire obit to cover Jerry's many accomplishments for the department, but you can read it in the Idaho Statesman at idahostatesman.com. Or, I would be glad to e-mail a copy to you or mail a copy to anyone without a computer. Also, Rocky Barker had a front page story featuring Jerry and I think an article is upcoming from Outdoor Editor Pete Zimowsky.)

Robert "Bob" Brent**Stenersen**

1929 - 2012

Bob Stenersen, retired Construction Foreman at Salmon, passed away July 19 at home at the age of 83. He retired from IDFG in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Anita; his children, Brent (Penny) Stenersen, Rob Stenersen, Cathy (Rensay) Owen, John (Colette) Stenersen; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and brother Alfred J. (Barbara) Stenersen. Donations in Bob's name may be sent to Hospice of Salmon, 506 Van Dreff St., Salmon, ID 83467; or Juvenile Diabetes Association.

Frank Smith

Frank Smith, retired Sr. Conservation Officer, passed away September 20 in Spokane, Washington. He retired from IDFG on July 31, 1989. Services were held September 28 at the LDS chapel in Post Falls. Present at the services was the Fish and Game Honor Guard.

(Thanks to Nancy Kasner, Panhandle Region Administrative Assistant for this information. I was unable to locate an obituary for Frank.)

Joanne Ellen Meiers

Joanne Meiers, 80, of Eagle, Idaho passed away October 5. She was the wife of former commissioner Dr. Richard Meiers.

Mary Ann Harvey

1933 - 2012

Mary Ann Harvey, 78, of Nampa passed away October 1 at a Nampa hospital from complications following colon surgery. Mary Ann worked for a short time as a temporary in the Accounts Payable Section of the IDFG department. Services were held October 6 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Nampa.

Our deepest sympathies to all the families.

* * * * *

Retiree Updates

Bill Horton is still involved with the Idaho Chapter of American Fisheries Society and they are planning a 50-year celebration next April. He is looking for addresses for a few people, some of which I could provide. However, if you happen to know how to get in touch with **Paul Cuplin** or **Terry Durkin**, please contact Bill at brthorten@msn.com; or 344-7358.

Last September I received the following e-mail from **Keith Kiler and Gayle Valentine**. "Hello to you all. We are currently camped at Twin Lakes Co. (Colorado) Having a great time, finding a few birds, catching a few fish, etc. The scenery could not be better as the aspen are close to their most magnificent fall colors. Tomorrow we will move on South to not sure where just yet, but will end up in Mesa Verde in a few days. Keith and Gayle" *(Some people sure know how to make us jealous, don't they? Hmm!)*

Dexter Pitman said he saw **Mike Schlegal and Bill Davidson** at the Pocatello Wildlife Summit venue. He said, "Both are busy as you would expect for them. All the new IDFG's were fun to meet and reassuring that IDFG is in good hands. Those I still know are fewer and fewer and, of course, envious of us Old Guys with time to fish when the fishing

is good and speak our minds in Public!!!"

Finally got an update from **Dick and Peggy Orcutt**. "Peg and I have been so busy that we never made the opportunity to check in. We look forward to each and every Retiree Newsletter. You do a great job! We all lost a great friend with the passing of **Ralph Pehrson**. He was part of our family and a great friend. It's taken me this long to even be able to write about it.

"Peg and I are still following the big fish from Riggins to the Washington coast. We take a little time off to hunt big game and birds during fall and early winter and then back to the water. I smoke a lot of fish for our use, grand kids and anyone else that wants to try some. It doesn't last long. I smoked 33 steelhead last April and it was gone in less than a week. We enjoy all the new friends we have made where ever we go.

"Peg tore her rotator cuff and bicep netting a fish for me. This required surgery which she is still recovering from. I will not hear the end of this anytime soon. That was an expensive fish! We are planning to hunt turkeys mid September and then take a trip to Seattle to visit our youngest son.

Best to you all, Dick and Peg"

* * * * *

Ramblings of a Retired Mind

(The following was given to me by Ralph Pehrson back in 2008 for use in the newsletter when needed for a filler. Have a good laugh on Ralph.)

"I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think."

"You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway."

"I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!"

"I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'"

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were **cramming** for their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve."

Happy Anniversaries!

Gary and Laurie Gadwa, 43 years, Nov. 22

Jim and Ann Graban, 54 years, Dec. 27

Gloria and John Elliott, 56 years, Dec. 28

Happy Birthdays!

October

Bill Horton, Oct. 2

Bud Ainsworth, Oct. 3

Mark Armbruster, Oct 6

Bill Davidson, Oct 6

Ted Meske, Oct. 6

Chris Ewing Craig, Oct. 7

Bob Royce, Oct. 7

Brent Ritchie, Oct. 8

Pat Cudmore, Oct. 8

Lynda Beach, Oct. 15

Gary Phillips, Oct. 20

Gerald Mowery, Oct. 22

Kent Ball, Oct. 22

Frank NeSmith, Oct. 24

Lynn Merrill, Oct. 24

Joe Curry, Oct. 27

Al Nicholson, Oct. 28

November

Dale Baird, Nov. 2

Bill Snow, Nov. 2

Ardella Reinke, Nov. 4

Gary Gadwa, Nov. 7

Dick Scully, Nov. 11

Dave Neider, Nov. 12

Sharon Wavra, Nov. 14

Fred Partridge, Nov. 21

Jerry Neufeld, Nov. 22

Don Carr, Nov. 24

Mike Schlegel, Nov. 25

Ned Horner, Nov. 25

Gary Loveland, Nov. 26

Lloyd Oldenburg, 82 yrs.,
Nov. 28

December

Donna Dillon, Dec. 1

Tom Levendofske, Dec. 2

Ardith Butterworth, Dec. 7

Joe Greenley, Dec. 13

John Heimer, Dec. 14

Rod Parker, Dec. 16

Dir. Virgil Moore*, Dec. 18

Don Anderson, Dec. 21

Anna Marie Halpern, Dec. 23

Bud Stackler, Dec. 27

Bill Gorgen, Dec. 28

*Current Employee

**Congratulations
Everyone!**

